

Council Drops Plan to Oppose Truck Permits

Will Ask Routing of Explosive Cargoes Around Loop Area

City officials will ask co-operation of Joliet Arsenal administrators and Col. Frank Edson, chief of transportation, Washington, D.C., to have trucks hauling explosive materials routed away from Joliet's loop and other busy sections as a safety measure.

This was decided on at an informal meeting after yesterday's regular council session. The action replaced the council's original plan, which was to send Corporation Counsel Francis A. Dunn and Traffic Capt. O. D. Belfield to Washington, D. C., today, to testify before the Interstate Commerce commission concerning possible hazards created by movement of explosives thru Joliet.

A PERMANENT permit has been asked by trucking concerns for hauling explosives over Illinois Indiana and Wisconsin highways. The truckers had a temporary permit during the war years and also have a temporary permit now.

Col. R. B. Curren, commanding officer at the Joliet Arsenal, said after the council session that careful consideration will be given to the city's request when the Arsenal is officially informed of the request thru city officials.

"Apparently the hauling of explosives had caused a dispute between the railroads and the truckers," Dunn explained to council members, yesterday. "The truckers are taking the position that if the city sends a representative to Washington, we would be fighting the truckers. I have talked with various persons concerned with the safety factor and other traffic situations here and, as I understand it, the plan is to route thru Joliet a large number of these explosive carrying trucks if the permit is granted by the federal commission."

IT WAS NOTED by Mayor Arthur O. Janke that the number of trucks mentioned in the application is 7,100. During what period of time this would cover was not stated.

"I think we should stay out of it (the hearing in Washington)," Mayor Arthur O. Janke said. "But instead our police department should trail these fellows carefully and we should try to get the trucks rerouted."

Commissioner Ed Franck, head of the department of public health and safety, said the National Carriage company has been hauling explosives thru Joliet but has stayed out of the loop area by traveling Chicago street to McDonough street, to Center street, and up Plainfield road to route 10. He said officials of the company suggested that the city contact Edson to have a route mapped out which would circle the loop area.

"We understand, naturally, that explosives have to be moved. But it seems to me that because of the hazardous conditions, the truckers ought to make a circuitous route away from the heavier traveled regions," Dunn said.

"OUR TRAFFIC division should contact the Joliet Arsenal for a specific route," the mayor suggested.

"I would hate to see anything happen in the future and have people say we discussed this thing and did nothing," commented Commissioner Joseph F. Whalen. "If you could keep them out of the city entirely it would be a good thing. I say that Dunn should go to Washington."

"The railroads are pressing the fight, but regardless of that we have a position of safety at stake," Dunn remarked.

"If you're talking about safety, what about the trucks hauling gasoline thru the city all the

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time?" Franck said. "That's a bad situation too."

AFTER FURTHER discussion it was agreed that the city would make no formal appearance at the Washington hearings. Peoria officials were to appear at the hearings in Washington today to enter the formal protest of that city.

"I will inform the federal representatives then that the city of Joliet will make no formal appearance," Dunn said. "But we should make every effort to regulate these trucks, certainly as to their routes. If we cannot route them, the city police department should convoy them thru the city at 10 miles per hour. The city is neither for or against the railroads or the truckers. We are interested solely in the welfare of the people of this community," Dunn added.

J. Andrews, 19 North Broadway; and L. Bodish, 15 North Broadway. The cars were parked in the 100 block on Broadway.

Another act of vandalism was reported to police, last night. William Mangum, 814 Glenwood avenue, told Officers Donald Zier and Robert James that two tires on his car had been flattened after being punctured with a sharp object, either a nail or ice pick. The car was parked at the rear of 219 North Chicago street.